

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Grant Ehrlich on August 11, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 7, section (e), please delete "capable of surface-adsorption" after the words: polymer backbone.

In claim 1, line 7, section (e), please insert -- having surface-adsorption properties -- after the words: polymer backbone.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Applicant claims an anode active material slurry comprising a carbon-based anode active material, conductive agent, binder comprising a styrene-butadiene-based polymer resin, a thickener comprising a cellulose-based or acrylate-based resin, a dispersant comprising a polymer backbone having surface-adsorption properties and a side-chain having non-ionic surfactant properties, and water.

Art Unit: 1795

In the prior art of record, Kim, KR 1020000014672 teaches an anode slurry comprising carbon-based anode active material, conductive agent, binder (styrene-butadiene based polymer resin), and water. Maeda et al., US 6,287,723, teach a binder.

However, the prior art of record, taken either alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a dispersant comprising a polymer backbone having surface-adsorption properties and a side-chain having non-ionic surfactant properties.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANGELA J. MARTIN whose telephone number is (571)272-1288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dah-Wei Yuan can be reached on 571-272-1295. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1795

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AJM
Examiner, Art Unit 1795

/Stephen J. Kalafut/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795